LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

UMES Students Earn Credit During Winter Term Trip to Paris

Four current UMES students and an alumnus joined English and Modern Languages faculty member Susan Coolege for a two week winter term trip to Paris. The group was part of a larger contingent of students enrolled in a Salisbury University course, The History of Paris. 

Dr. Coolege and SU professor Arlene White have escorted a combined group of UMES and SU students on five trips to France. They conduct their course by visiting historic sites and world class museums. “The students' work reveals a real appreciation of this magnificent city through the ages,” Dr. Coolege said. “They have a lot of fun, too.”

This year the students arrived during an unusual spate of frigid weather and had the unique pleasure of seeing the city in the snow.

While in Paris, Dr. Coolege took advantage of a special exhibit at the Arab Institute featuring Napoleon's expedition and military exploits in Egypt.

Last summer, after taking an Arabic language course at UMES, she visited Egypt to explore additional study abroad possibilities for UMES students.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Senior English Major Receives Award

Candace Johnson, a senior from Temple Hills, Maryland, has been selected to receive the David and Janice Sue Riddick English and Modern Languages Endowed Scholarship. Ms. Johnson was chosen by a committee of English faculty members at the close of the fall semester.

Ms. Johnson has compiled a superior academic record. She also serves as president of the local chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, a national English honor society, and works as a peer tutor in the University’s writing center. 

Mr. Riddick graduated from UMES in 1969. In addition to the annual award to a UMES English major, he has established a scholarship for students studying computer science and created the “Riddick Friends of the Library Fund” to benefit the Frederick Douglass Library. Mr. Riddick became a donor to his alma mater in 1989. Last year was the first time the English department awarded the scholarship that he created.

AUDITIONS SCHEDULED

The UMES Drama Society will hold auditions on Tuesday, February 3, at 6 p.m. in the Ella Fitzgerald Center. Singers and musicians will be selected for the society’s annual dinner theater production scheduled for April 16, 17, and 18.

The advisor to the society is English faculty member Della Dameron Johnson. She is planning a musical review entitled “Puttin’ on the Hits.”

No previous theater experience is required. Those who audition should come prepared to sing two songs and to present a monologue.
Her work on behalf of the victims of domestic violence brought her to the attention of then U.S. Senator Joe Biden. After they had worked productively together on domestic violence issues, Senator Biden asked Ms. Lucas to nominate him as a vice presidential candidate at his party’s national convention last summer.

Things snowballed after that. Ms. Lucas has met both President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama. She and her family were invited to join a group of so-called “everyday Americans” who accompanied the Obamas and Bidens on the train that brought the team to Washington. Later in the week, she celebrated their inauguration at the Neighborhood Inaugural Ball at the Washington Convention Center where the President and First Lady shared their first dance of the evening. Entertainers at the star-studded event included Beyonce, Mariah Carey, Stevie Wonder, Mary J. Blige, Denzel Washington, Alicia Keys, Jay-Z and others.

Despite her brush with celebrities, Ms. Lucas describes herself as “still on a mission to end domestic violence and to change lives.”

Mr. Rose shows off a videotape of his niece at the Democratic National Convention in Denver.

Photo by Simeon Shoge

Kathleen Winter has taken advantage of her retirement from the English department last year to focus on her poetry. Ms. Winter shared her work at two recent events that featured local writers.

The tenth annual John Milton Memorial Celebration of Poets and Poetry, held in Milton, Delaware, provided an opportunity for her to read five of her poems. Her presentation was part of a larger two day event that included the unveiling and dedication of a John Milton statue in the town’s Mill Park. The festival also offered an opportunity for student-poets from Milton area public schools to read their poems.

Just before Christmas, Ms. Winter presented some of her work at the Eastern Shore Writers Association’s annual Holiday Readings of Prose and Poetry. The group describes the event as an opportunity for members and guests to read from their work to “an audience of appreciative writers.”

Ms. Winter reads her poetry at a recent holiday event sponsored by the Eastern Shore Writers Association in Easton.

Photo by Wilson Wyatt

Ms. Winter taught composition courses at UMES from 2002 through the spring semester of 2008. She has long been a writer, student, and teacher of poetry. Ms. Winter was one of the organizers of the “Exultation of Larks,” a poetry workshop held each year at the annual Conference on College Composition and Communication sponsored by the National Council of Teachers of English.

While she was a member of the UMES faculty, Ms. Winter organized several poetry readings on campus to celebrate National Poetry Month.
There are sixteen new inductees to the UMES Hall of Excellence, including an English major from the class of 1978. Horatio “Bill” Jones is part of a group to be honored by the National Alumni Association over homecoming weekend for outstanding contributions to the University.

Mr. Jones, a senior producer at CBS News, has contributed financially to his alma mater. He has also returned to campus repeatedly to offer advice to English majors who seek careers in television.

The formal induction ceremony will be held at a banquet on Friday, February 13, in the Student Services Center ballroom. President Thelma Thompson will also be honored by the alumni association that evening.

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Adjunct faculty member Patrice Jones has written an article which appears in SoHo House, a magazine published in London and New York and available online.

Ms. Jones’s submission is entitled “Taekwondo in a Hijab: Muscular Feminism in Iran.” The article reports on how women and girls in Iran are expressing themselves through the medium of sport. The article links that participation to the efforts to regain women’s rights in a country governed by Islamic fundamentalists.

Ms. Jones identifies a certain irony in the Iranian government’s decision to segregate male and female sports. She says that because women must practice and compete in strictly sex-segregated facilities “hidden from view are the opportunities for collective consciousness raising and empowerment in female-only sport facilities.”

The author of Aftershock, Confronting Trauma in a Violent World, A Guide for Activists and their Allies, Ms. Jones often writes about animal rights and issues affecting the gay and lesbian community. She described the SoHo House assignment as “a bit afield from my usual work, but fun.”

Congratulations to the December 2008 graduates from the Department of English and Modern Languages.
The UMES chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, a national English honor society, will soon be initiating new members. With the start of the spring semester, the current members will begin to interview those students with superior academic records who have expressed an interest in joining the organization. Once invitations have been issued and accepted, the society plans to hold a formal induction ceremony in early March.

Senior English major Danielle Belle, the current Miss UMES, is involved in a competition to be named Miss MEAC. The campus queens in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference are all contestants for the regional title. Ms. Bell encourages her colleagues to cast a vote for her once each day by visiting http://www.rushmoredrive.com/cmpns/meac/default.aspx. The winner will be crowned during the MEAC basketball tournament next month in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Judah Productions hopes to gain positive exposure for the program by entering it in a number of festivals including the New York Television Pilot Festival and the Los Angeles Television Festival. “Prayfully The PaperMill will get picked up at one of the festivals and will air on television in the coming years,” Mr. Moore said.

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